UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

)

JASON T. MALEK,

Defendant.

) 16-CR-00508-1

)

)

January 9, 2017

TRANSCRIPT OF PLEA HEARING
BEFORE THE HONORABLE R. BARCLAY SURRICK
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the Government: SONIA MITTAL, ESQUIRE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ANTITRUST DIVISION 450 Fifth St., NW

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Washington, D.C. 20530

For the Defendant MICHAEL B. HIMMEL, ESQUIRE

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| 1 | | <u>I N</u> | DEX | | |
| 2 | FACTUAL BASIS: | | | | |
| 3 | Ms. Mittal | | | 18 | |
| 4 | <u>PLEA</u> : | | | 23 | |
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(The following was heard in open court at 3:12 p.m.) 1 2 THE CLERK: All rise. United States District Court 3 for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania is now in session, the Honorable R. Barclay Surrick presiding. 4 5 THE COURT: Good afternoon. ALL COUNSEL: Good afternoon, Your Honor. 6 7 THE COURT: Have a seat. Okay. We're calling the 8 case of United States v. Jason Malek. Case Number 16-508. 9 Counsel, please identify yourselves for the record. 10 MS. MITTAL: Good afternoon, Your Honor. My name is Sonia Mittal, I represent the United States. Along with me at 11 counsel table are Mark Grundvig and Ellen Clarke, also 12 13 representing the United States. MR. HIMMEL: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Michael 14 15 Himmel for Jason Malek. 16 THE COURT: Okay. Counsel, we're here this 17 afternoon, as I understand it, for a plea of guilty to a 18 two-count Information. Mr. Malek is going to enter a plea of guilty to Counts One and Two of Information under 16-0508. 19 Are we ready to proceed? 20 21 MR. HIMMEL: Yes, Your Honor. 22 THE COURT: Mr. Himmel, why don't you bring your client forward? 23 24 All right. Would you swear the defendant? 25 THE CLERK: Raise your right hand, please.

JASON MALEK, DEFENDANT, SWORN 1 2 THE CLERK: Can you state your full name, please? 3 MR. MALEK: Jason Temir Malek (phonetic). 4 THE CLERK: Thank you. 5 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Malek, I'm going to ask 6 you a number of questions over the next half hour or so. And 7 I'm asking you these questions so that I can determine that 8 you are entering this plea voluntarily and intelligently. 9 Do you understand that? 10 MR. MALEK: Yes, sir. THE COURT: You were just placed under oath by my 11 Clerk. When you're under oath, you have to answer my 12 13 questions truthfully. Do you understand? 14 MR. MALEK: Yes, sir. 15 THE COURT: If you fail to answer questions truthfully when you're under oath, you can be prosecuted for 16 perjury. Do you understand that? 17 18 MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Malek, how old are you?

MR. MALEK: Forty.

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THE COURT: And far did you go in school?

MR. MALEK: Eleventh grade.

THE COURT: Do you read and write?

MR. MALEK: Yes.

THE COURT: Are you under the influence of any

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alcohol today?
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               MR. MALEK: No.
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               THE COURT: Under the influence of any drugs?
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               MR. MALEK: No.
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               THE COURT: Are you under the care of a psychologist
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     or a psychiatrist?
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               MR. MALEK: No.
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               THE COURT: Is there any reason at all, Mr. Malek,
     why you might have difficulty understanding these proceedings?
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               MR. MALEK: No.
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               THE COURT: You are represented by Mr Himmel in this
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     matter?
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               MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.
               THE COURT: You've had a chance to discuss this
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     matter with him in detail?
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               MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.
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               THE COURT: Are you satisfied with his
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     representation?
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               MR. MALEK: Yes.
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               THE COURT: Are you satisfied that if you chose to
     go to trial in this case, he could properly represent you?
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               MR. MALEK: Yes.
               THE COURT: Mr. Himmel, you've had a chance to
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     discuss this matter with your client in detail?
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               MR. HIMMEL: Yes, I did.
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THE COURT: Are you satisfied that he's entering a 1 voluntary, intelligent plea? 2 3 MR. HIMMEL: Yes, sir. THE COURT: Mr. Malek, as I understand it, you want 4 to plead guilty to Counts One and Two of an Information. 5 6 understand you have a right to have this matter presented to a 7 grand jury? 8 MR. MALEK: Yes, sir. 9 THE COURT: If you ask to have this matter presented 10 to the grand jury, the grand jury would be made up of anywhere from 16 to 23 citizens from the Eastern District of 11 Pennsylvania. And at least 16 of those grand jurors would 12 13 have to be satisfied that there was probable cause to believe that you committed the crimes in this Information. 14 15 Do you understand that? 16 MR. MALEK: Yes, sir. 17 THE COURT: But you don't want the matter presented 18 to the grand jury, you want to admit your guilt to this 19 Information, is that correct? 20 MR. MALEK: Yes, sir. THE COURT: Now you did, I believe, sign a waiver 21 form, did you not? 22 23 MR. MALEK: Yes. 24 THE COURT: A waiver of presentment to a grand jury?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

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THE COURT: I'm holding that in my hand at this point, and in looking at that, where your name's typed in, it 2 3 would appear that you signed that. Is that your signature? MR. MALEK: Yes, sir. THE COURT: And you discussed this with Mr. Himmel before you signed it? MR. MALEK: Yes, sir. THE COURT: Did you sign it of your own free will? MR. MALEK: Yes, sir. THE COURT: All right. The waiver form will be made a part of the record. Mr. Glazer (sic), the Information that you want to plead guilty to, as I indicated, has two counts. They charge you with violating Section 1 of the Sherman Act. 13 Do you understand that? MR. MALEK: Yes, sir. THE COURT: Section One of the Sherman Act provides, 17 among other things, that every contact, or combination, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade is illegal. Do you 19 understand that? MR. MALEK: Yes, sir. THE COURT: So in this case, Mr. Malek, if the Government had to prove that you violated Section One of the

Sherman Act they would have to prove the following. knowingly and intentionally entered into an agreement with other individuals or entities to do an unlawful act.

And in this case that unlawful act was to unreasonably restrain trade or commerce by allocating customers, rigging bids, and fixing prices.

And they would also have to prove that this conspiracy substantially affected interstate or foreign commerce. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Now Count One charges you with that unlawful act as it relates to a conspiracy that existed between April 2013 and December 2015 involving the generic drug Doxycycline Hyclate, do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: And Count Two deals with a conspiracy to restrain trade that existed between April of 2014 and December of 2015 involving the drug Glyburide.

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Do you have any questions about the crimes that you are admitting here this afternoon?

MR. MALEK: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand that violating the Sherman Act, Section One, can be punished by imprisonment of up to ten years?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand that there is a supervised release that follows imprisonment of up to three

years?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand that if you're on supervised release, and you violate the terms of supervised release, you can be brought back into Court and you can be re-incarcerated for up to two years?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: There's also a fine that can be imposed for this violation. And that fine is equal to the greater of \$1 million, or twice the gross pecuniary gain that the conspirators derived from the crime. Or twice the gross pecuniary loss caused to the victims of the crime by the conspirators. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you have any questions at all about the crime that you are admitting here this afternoon?

MR. MALEK: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Any questions about the punishment that can be imposed for that crime?

MR. MALEK: No, sir.

THE COURT: Now, Mr. Glazer (sic), you understand -or, Mr. Malek, you understand that you do not have to enter a
plea of guilty. You have an absolute constitutional right to
go to trial in this case. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: If you chose to go to trial in this matter, we would schedule the case for trial on a date certain, we would bring prospective jurors into this courtroom. Those jurors would all be citizens from the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. And you could participate in the selection of the jury that would hear the case. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: During that selection process, you would be able to challenge jurors peremptorily. You would get a certain number of peremptory challenges that you would not have to explain to anyone. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: You would also get challenges for cause. Any prospective juror who could not fairly try this case, you could challenge and we would strike that juror. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And do you understand that after you made your strikes, and after the Government did the same, 12 jurors would be empaneled to hear the case. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Do you understand that I would tell those 12 jurors, I would instruct them that you are presumed

innocent, that the burden is upon the Government to prove you guilty by evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, and I would tell them the mere fact that you've been arrested and accused of a crime is not evidence against you. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand that if after hearing all of the evidence and testimony, any one of those 12 jurors had a reasonable doubt as to your guilt, you could not be found guilty, because the verdict of a criminal jury must be unanimous, all must agree.

Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You understand, Mr. Malek, that if you chose to go to trial, you would have a right to file pretrial motions. Motions to suppress evidence, and other pretrial motions. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Did you speak with Mr. Himmel about filing those pretrial motions?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Do you understand that if you filed motions, I would have hearings on them, and then I would rule on them?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Do you understand that if you chose to

go to trial in this matter, you would have a right to confront and to cross-examine all the witnesses against you?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You have a right to present your own witnesses. And if you subpoenaed witnesses, we would require that they appear. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: You understand that you do not have to testify at a trial? You have a constitutional right to remain silent. And if you choose to exercise that right, it cannot be held against you in any way. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Do you understand that if you went to trial and you were convicted, if you were found guilty, you'd have a right to appeal. And we'd give you an attorney free of charge and file that appeal if you couldn't afford one.

Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: In that appeal, you could raise objections to anything that happened during the trial that you felt was improper. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You could also raise objections to my rulings on those pretrial motions that I mentioned a few minutes ago. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Mr. Malek, you're telling me you don't want to go through that process?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You want to admit your guilt here this afternoon and take the consequences?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You understand that if -- if I accept this plea, I am simply going to order a presentence investigation report, and schedule the matter for sentencing. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You and Mr. Himmel will get a copy of that presentence report, and you can make objections to it at the time of sentencing. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand that there are sentencing guidelines in the Federal system? Those guidelines are advisory, they're not mandatory, but I have to consider them when I'm imposing sentence. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You've talked to Mr. Himmel about the sentencing guidelines?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Now, Mr. Malek, you entered into a plea

Colloquy 14

agreement with the Government, is that correct?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

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THE COURT: I'm holding that plea agreement in my hand. And it would appear that it is a 17-page document, and on page 17, it would appear that you signed that document where your name is typed in. Is that your signature?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Malek, did you read this document before you signed it?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Did you go over it with Mr. Himmel before you signed it?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Did you understand each and every paragraph of it before you signed it?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Did you sign it of your own free will?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Anybody put any pressure on you to make you sign this?

MR. MALEK: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Did anybody promise you anything in return for signing it?

MR. MALEK: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: There are a couple of provisions in here

that I want to talk to you about. First of all, there is a waiver of appeal rights. Do you remember reading that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Do you understand that by entering this plea you're severely limiting your appeal rights?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: You understand that under this plea agreement the only issues that you could raise on appeal would be if I sentenced you above the statutory maximum, do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: If I were to impose a sentence departing above the sentencing guidelines that was unreasonable, you could object to that, and raise that as an objection. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: You could also raise an objection that your counsel has ineffectively represented you. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You're telling me, however, that Mr.

Himmel has given you good representation?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: He's been an effective attorney in representing your interest?

Case 2:16-cr-00508-RBS Document 24 Filed 01/18/17 Page 16 of 24 Colloguy 16 Yes, sir. 1 MR. MALEK: 2 Do you have any questions about that? THE COURT: 3 MR. MALEK: No, Your Honor. THE COURT: There is another provision in this plea 4 5 agreement that deals with a downward departure under Sentencing Guideline, Section 5K1.1. Do you recall reading 6 7 that? 8 MR. MALEK: Yes, sir. 9 THE COURT: That provision essentially says that, in 10 return for your cooperation, the Government can come in here 11 at the time of sentencing and request that I depart downward from those sentencing guidelines that I mentioned earlier. 12 Do you understand that? 13 14 MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor. 15 THE COURT: Do you understand that it is solely within the discretion of the Government whether they will come 16 17 in here and make such a request? 18 MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: Do you understand that it is within my 19 20 discretion whether I will grant that request, and the extent to which I would grant that request? 21

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

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THE COURT: There are also in this plea agreement recommendations with regard to the sentencing guidelines. You understand, Mr. Malek, that those are simply recommendations.

Case 2:16-cr-00508-RBS Document 24 Filed 01/18/17 Page 17 of 24 Colloquy 17 I'm not bound by the recommendations that you and the 1 Government make as it relates to the sentencing guidelines, do 2 3 you understand that? 4 MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor. 5 THE COURT: It's up to me at the time of sentencing 6 to determine what the guideline implications are, and to 7 impose a sentence that is reasonable under the circumstances. 8 Do you understand that? 9 MR. MALEK: Yes, sir. 10 THE COURT: Mr. Malek, knowing all of this, do you still want to plead guilty here this afternoon? 11 12 MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: Are you entering this plea of your own 13 free will? 14 15 MR. MALEK: Yes, sir. 16 THE COURT: Any pressure been put on you at all? 17 MR. MALEK: No, Your Honor. 18 THE COURT: Any promises been made at all? MR. MALEK: None at all, sir. 19 20 THE COURT: You know what you're doing? MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor 21 22 THE COURT: Any questions about what you're doing? No, sir. 23 MR. MALEK:

THE COURT: You understand that if you have any

questions, now is the time to ask them, not later?

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Factual Basis

| 1 | MR. MALEK: Yes, sir. |
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| 2 | THE COURT: Mr. Himmel, again, you're satisfied that |
| 3 | your client is entering a voluntary, intelligent plea here? |

THE COURT: Any question in your mind about that?

MR. MALEK: No, sir.

MR. HIMMEL: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Counsel, can we have the factual basis for this plea?

MS. MITTAL: Your Honor, had this case gone to trial, the United States would have presented evidence sufficient to prove the following facts.

During the periods relevant to Count One and Count
Two, the defendant was senior vice-president commercial
operations, and president of a pharmaceutical company,
organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, with its
principal place of business in Eatontown, New Jersey.

During the relevant period, the defendant's company was engaged in the acquisition, licensing, production, marketing, sales and distribution of generic pharmaceutical products, including Doxycycline Hyclate, and Glyburide, and was engaged in the sale of those drugs in the United States.

Doxycycline Hyclate is a generic antibiotic used to treat a variety of bacterial infections. Glyburide is a generic drug used in the treatment of diabetes. During the relevant periods, the defendant's company produced and

distributed Doxycycline Hyclate in delayed release tablet form in three dosage strengths. And produced and distributed Glyburide table form in four strengths. During the relevant period, the parties agree that the affected volume of commerce, based on sales of Doxycycline Hyclate and Glyburide in the United States, totaled approximately \$1.6 million, after excluding certain sales pursuant to United States Sentencing Guideline Section 1B1.8.

The relevant period for Count One is that period from in or about April 2013, and continuing until at least December 2015. During the relevant period, the defendant participated in the conspiracy with other persons and entities engaged in the production and sale of generic pharmaceutical products, including Doxycycline Hyclate.

The primary purpose of which was to allocate customers, rig bids, and fix and maintain prices for Doxycycline Hyclate sold in the United States. In furtherance of the conspiracy, the defendant and his co-conspirators, including individuals the defendant supervised at his company, and those he reported to at his company's parent, engaged in discussions and attended meetings with co-conspirators involved in the production and sale of Doxycycline Hyclate.

During such discussions and meetings, agreements were reached to allocate customers, rig bids, and fix and maintain the prices of Doxycycline Hyclate sold in the United

1 States.

The relevant period for Count Two is that period from in or about April 2014, and continuing until at least December 2015. During the relevant period, the defendant participated in a conspiracy with other persons and entities engaged in the production and sale of generic pharmaceutical products, including Glyburide, the primary purpose of which was to allocate customers and to fix and maintain prices of Glyburide sold in the United States.

In furtherance of the conspiracy, the defendant and his co-conspirators at his company, including individuals that the defendant supervised, engaged in discussions and attended meetings with co-conspirators involved in the production and sale of Glyburide.

During such discussions and meetings, agreements were reached to allocate customers and to fix and maintain prices of Glyburide sold in the United States. The defendant was a manager or supervisor in the conspiracy which involved at least five participants.

During the periods relevant for Counts One and Two, Doxycycline Hyclate and Glyburide sold by one or more of the conspirator firms, and equipment and supplies necessary for the production and sale of those drugs, as well as payments for those drugs, traveled in interstate and foreign commerce.

The business activities of the defendant and his

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company, and the co-conspirators in connection with the production and sale of Doxycycline Hyclate and Glyburide that were the subject of this conspiracy, were within the flow of, and substantially affected interstate and foreign commerce.

Acts in furtherance of the conspiracy described in Count One and in Count Two were carried out within the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Doxycycline Hyclate, the subject of the conspiracy described in Count One, and Glyburide, the subject of the conspiracy described in Count Two, were sold by one or more conspirators to customers in this District.

In addition, the conspiratorial meetings and discussions described took place within the United States and elsewhere. And at least one of these discussions relevant to Count Two involved a co-conspirator that has its principal place of business in this District.

THE COURT: Mr. Malek, you heard what the Assistant United States Attorney just said with regard to the facts of this case?

MR. MALEK: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: And you read those facts in the plea memorandum?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand that you are admitting those facts?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

Colloquy THE COURT: Do you admit those facts? 1 2 MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor. 3 THE COURT: Do you understand that if you did the things that you just admitted, you are in fact guilty of these 4 5 crimes? 6 MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor 7 THE COURT: Mr. Malek, when I accept this plea I'm 8 simply going to order a presentence investigation report and schedule the matter down for sentencing. When I bring you 9 10 back here for sentencing, if I impose a period of incarceration, it will be a flat period of incarceration. 11 There is no parole in the Federal system. 12 13 Do you understand that? 14 MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor 15 THE COURT: And finally, you and Mr. Himmel will get a opportunity to review that presentence report before the 16

sentencing hearing, and you can make objections to it at the time of sentencing. Do you understand that?

MR. MALEK: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Counsel, do you have anything further?

MR. HIMMEL: No, sir.

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THE COURT: Counsel, do you have anything further?

MS. MITTAL: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. I find this plea is voluntarily and intelligently entered. I find that there is a

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factual basis for it. And I will accept it. Will my Clerk please take the plea?

THE CLERK: Jason Malek, you are charged in Information Number 16-508 consisting of Counts One and Two, charging you with antitrust violations in violation of Title 15 of the United States Code, Section One. How do you plead, guilty or not guilty?

MR. MALEK: Guilty.

THE CLERK: Thank you.

THE COURT: All right. I'm going to order that presentence report that I mentioned. I'm going to schedule this matter for sentencing for April 10, 2017 at 2 p.m. And finally, with regard to Mr. Malek's status, I'm going to permit Mr. Malek to be released on \$300,000 ROR bail.

The conditions of that bail will be that Mr. Malek shall report to the Pretrial Services as directed. That he will surrender his passport. That he will not possess any firearms. And that he will not have any contact with co-defendants, or potential witnesses in this case, unless it is at the direction and under the supervision of counsel.

Counsel, anything further?

MR. HIMMEL: No, sir. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Anything further from the Government?

MS. MITTAL: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. We are in recess.

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| | 24 |
| 1 | MS. MITTAL: Thank you, Your Honor. |
| 2 | THE CLERK: All rise. |
| 3 | (Proceedings concluded at 3:40 p.m.) |
| 4 | * * * * |
| 5 | CERTIFICATION |
| 6 | I, Josette Jones, court approved transcriber, certify that the |
| 7 | foregoing is a correct transcript from the official digital |
| 8 | audio recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled |
| 9 | matter. |
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